



Fruit Worthy of Repentance

Matthew 3:8

Fruit Worthy of Repentance

- Repentance has often been called “the most difficult command.”
 - Matt. 3:7-8 - “But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance”
- “The facts of the gospel are not hard to understand and neither is forgiveness an undesirable goal, but repentance, bringing the stubborn will in line, is the truly hard part.”

“When you look through the record of the Savior's earthly ministry, you find that He induced a great many to believe in Him... But when you search for those who repented under the Lord's preaching, you will find but few. When you go out preaching among the people of this country, you will not find it very difficult to induce your hearers to believe the truth concerning Christ, and, when they are prepared in mind and heart for baptism, you will not find it at all difficult to persuade them to submit to that ... You will find no difficulty, provided they have repented and desire to obey the Lord; but how difficult it is to induce men to repent! Sinners outside the church and sinners inside the church cling to their sins, and it appears impossible in many instances to bring them to repentance.” (J.W. McGarvey, *Chapel Talks*, p. 71-72)

What Is Repentance?

- Metanoia - “Literally turning around; a change of mind, as it appears to one who repents of a purpose he has formed or of something he has done; to change one's mind for the better, to amend heartily with abhorrence of one's past sins; a reversal of moral purpose.” (Thayer)

What Is Repentance?

- Luke 5:32 - “I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”
- Acts 3:19 - “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”
- Acts 26:20 - “But declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.”
- 2Tim. 2:25 - “In humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth.”

What Is Repentance?

- A change of mind followed by a correction of life.
- A turning away from something and a turning toward something.
- For this reason, repentance involves both will (heart) and work (life).

The Call To Repentance

- Repentance begins with a change of mind; therefore, the mind must know what it must turn away from.
- The Gospel supplies that information.
- The message produces conflict. It requires that one conquer his stubborn will.
 - Luke 9:23 - “Then He said to them all, If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”

The Call To Repentance

- The Gospel is a message of conflict because it attacks the root of the problem, the stubborn will of man
 - Rom. 6:16 - “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?”

The Call To Repentance

- The Gospel is a message of conflict because it attacks the root of the problem, the stubborn will of humankind.
 - Gal. 5:17 - “For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.”
 - James 1:14 - “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.”

The Call To Repentance

- It is a fight that is ongoing, even in the best of us.
 - Rom. 7:22-25 - “For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 I thank God--through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

God Provides The Motivation To Repent

- God leads us to repentance.
 - Rom. 2:4 - “Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?”
 - 2Peter 3:9 - “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

God Provides The Motivation To Repent

- God's judgment will be fair.
 - Rom. 2:5-6, 11 - “But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who will render to each one according to his deeds... 11 For there is no partiality with God.”

God Provides The Motivation To Repent

- God's judgment will be real.
 - Rom. 2:7-10 - “Eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; 8 but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness--indignation and wrath, 9 tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; 10 but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

God Provides The Motivation To Repent

- God doesn't need for you to believe in Judgment Day in order for it to come; it will come with or without your faith.
- If these facts do not strike fear into your heart and cause you to turn from sin, then nothing will.

The Fruit Of Repentance

- 2Cor. 7:9 - “Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. 11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.”

The Fruit Of Repentance

- No regret
- Zeal
- Diligence
- Indignation
- Fear
- Vehement desire
- Vindication
- Salvation

Lesson

- “Repentance is heart's sorrow, and a clear life ensuing.” (*William Shakespeare*)
- Biblical repentance lies at the comma in this sentence. It stands between the heartache of realized sin and the sheer joy of forgiveness. Where are you in this sentence?